Development scheme for weaker sections of society

829. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up any development scheme for the socio-economic upliftment of weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) For the socio-economic upliftment of SCs & STs, who constitute the majority of the weaker sections of the society, the comprehensive strategies of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan have been adopted. The Tribal Sub-Plan came into being from V Five Year Plan and the Special Component Plan for SCs from VI Five Year Plan. The SCP/TSP strategy is aimed at channelising the flow of benefits and outlays from the general sectors in the Plan of States and Central Ministries for the development of SCs & STs in physical and financial terms.

In addition to SCP & TSP, the following Central & Centrally Sponsored schemes are being administered by the Ministry of Welfare:

1. Post-matric scholarships for SCs & STs;
2. Pre-matric scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations;
3. Book Bank scheme for SC & ST students studying in medical & engineering colleges;
4. Special Central Assistance to SCP & TSP;
5. Boys hostel for SCs & STs;
6. Girls hostel for SCs & STs;
7. Coaching and allied schemes for SCs & STs;
8. Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations engaged in welfare activities for SCs & STs;
9. PCR machinery and prevention of atrocities;
10. Liberation of scavengers;
11. Central assistance to SC Development Corporations;
12. National SC & ST Finance & Development Corporation;
13. Research & Training scheme for SCs;
14. Investment in Tribal Cooperative and Marketing Federation (TRIFED);
15. Ashram schools in Tribal Sub-Plan areas;
16. Research & Training scheme for STs

(a) (i) Grant-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes.

(ii) Reward of Research fellowships.

(b) Supporting projects of All-India or inter-State nature for STs;

17. Development of oilseeds and oils from trees of forest origin in Tribal areas;
18. Grant-in-aid to TRIFED; and
19. Price support to TRIFED.

Appointment of new dealers for Maruti Udyog Limited

830. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to change the method appointing new dealers for Maruti Udyog Limited; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the method to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Impact of Oil Slick in sea

831. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the opinions expressed by some experts that the adverse impact of the Oil Slick in the sea by Iraq during the current Gulf War would be felt in India sometime in April this year;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal of carrying out a test of the sea water in the Western Coast by National Institute of Oceanography, Goa; if necessary, by engaging more scientific staff for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this work is likely to start; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor and the manners by which Government propose to counter the adverse effect of the Oil Slick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the opinion expressed by some experts that the adverse impact of the Oil Slick in the sea during the current Gulf War would be felt in India sometime in April this year. However, the expert advice as available to Government from within is that the impact of the present Oil Slick in the Gulf will remain confined to the Gulf itself due to Oceanographic conditions there and thus the impact on the Indian Coast, if any, would be negligible. Notwithstanding this advice, Government have decided to send a multidisciplinary special cruise from Mormagao to North West Arabian Sea to collect the latest base line data. The cruise will commence this work shortly. The scientific staff available at the national institutions would be sufficient for carrying out this work.

Increasing assaults on journalists

832. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increasing assaults on journalists in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a risk insurance scheme for the journalists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Expert Committee set up by the Government to look *inter alia* into issues of safety, health and hygiene have also dealt with the matter pertaining to occupational hazards for journalists. The Expert Committee submitted its report on 15th January, 1991, which is engaging the attention of the Government.

Changes in the working of creches

833. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, has issued an order in September, 1990 effecting changes in the working of creches and requiring the parents of the children whose age is more than 7 years to shift their children with 31st March, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that previously the children upto the age of 12 years were being allowed in these creches;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for changing the earlier policy;